

Psalm 106:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then believed they his words; they sang his praise.

Analysis

This verse describes Israel's immediate response after the Red Sea deliverance. 'Then believed they his words' shows that the Red Sea miracle produced faith—at least momentarily. 'They sang his praise' refers to the Song of the Sea (Exodus 15), Israel's great hymn of victory. However, the word 'then' is ominous—it implies their faith was temporary and situation-dependent. The next verse confirms this: their belief and praise lasted only until the next trial. This teaches that genuine faith endures beyond dramatic experiences. Event-driven faith that rises and falls with circumstances is immature and unstable. True belief trusts God's character, not just His recent demonstrations of power.

Historical Context

The Song of the Sea (Exodus 15:1-21) was Israel's exultant response to seeing Egypt's army drowned. Led by Moses and Miriam, the people celebrated God's triumph. Yet within days they were grumbling about water (Exodus 15:24) and food (Exodus 16:3). This pattern of momentary faith followed by doubt became characteristic of the wilderness generation, illustrating the human tendency toward forgetfulness and unbelief.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between temporary, emotion-driven faith and enduring trust in God?
2. How can believers cultivate faith that persists beyond dramatic spiritual experiences?
3. Why does crisis-driven belief often fail to produce lasting transformation?

Interlinear Text

תָּהֲלַלּוּ בְּשִׁירָיו בְּדִבְרָיו יָמִינָה
Then believed they his words they sang his praise

H539

H1697

H7891

H8416

Additional Cross-References

Luke 8:13 (Faith): They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

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